

Carl and Annie Beiswinger House  
22 Westside  
Wallace  
Shoshone County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-95

HABS

ID,

40 WAL,

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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STATE Idaho	COUNTY Shoshone	TOWN OR VICINITY City of Wallace
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Carl and Annie Beiswinger House (see supplement)		HABS NO. ID-95
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Harriet Mullen House, James E. Davis House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 22 Westside, Wallace, Idaho (Legal: 1st First Addn. Block 6 S. 1/2 Lot 2)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Circa 1915 (see supplement)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) See supplement		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) See supplement		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See supplement		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE See supplement		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) See supplement		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES See supplement		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The house is vacant and has been salvaged		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE House is scheduled to be torn down in 1988 to make way for a motel-restaurant-gift shop complex		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Nat'l. Register of Historic Places, Defeco Title Co., Shoshone County Asses- Office, Sanborn Fire Maps, Barnard-Stockbridge Photo Collection, Harry Olson, Richard Magnuson, Wallace Public Library, Census Bureau.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Michael J. Green, Depot Productions, Wallace, Idaho		DATE May 1988

## CARL AND ANNIE BEISWINGER HOUSE

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Carl Beiswinger House (Harriet Mullen House, James E. Davis House) at 22 Westside is a contributing element of the Wallace Historic District and is located in a residential area containing homes constructed between 1910 and 1920.

The City of Wallace was first settled in 1884. It is located along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and at the mouth of three side creeks and gulches amid North Idaho's steep Panhandle. The founding of the town followed discovery of fabulous lead-silver deposits in the surrounding mountains. As mining activity quickly grew, so did the town. By 1887 the population was 500, which grew to 2,816 by 1920 (U.S. Census Bureau).

The town flourished from mining activities, and Wallace became known as the Silver Capital of the World because more silver has been extracted from the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, with Wallace as the hub, than any place on earth.

Much of the town was located on a cedar swamp, which was drained as growth occurred. The west end of town containing this house was drained and developed last. Northern Pacific Railway first owned this land in west Wallace. NP leased to private individuals this land, on which were built many homes. NP deeded the land to the homeowners in a period from 1920 to 1925. This addition to the town is known as the NP First Addition.

Dating exact construction of most of the houses is difficult because the first deeding of the property occurred after the homes were built. The Minnesota State Historical Society, Archives Manuscripts Division, which possesses defunct NP's records, could not locate copies of the original leases. Early fire maps and photographs show no homes built in that area prior to 1910. Most of the homes, then, were constructed from 1910-1920.

These dates were confirmed by Harry Olson, who has lived in west Wallace since 1922. He said in an interview most of the houses in west Wallace were already constructed when he moved there in 1922. He was 10 years old at the time.

Olson remembers nothing distinctive about west Wallace other than it being an ordinary residential part of town. Its residents were a mixture of business and working people, including miners, a druggist, a county commissioner and even "bootleggers." The streets

were paved in the addition about 1920, Olson said. A flood in 1933 caused considerable damage to the streets and homes, he said.

As mining activity in the district began to decline in the 1970s and 1980s, so did the number of jobs and demand for homes. The 1988 population of Wallace was 1,460 (source: Association of Idaho Cities). The character of some homes changed as they went from owner-occupied to rentals. Some deteriorated from lack of care. (Some had been rentals for most of their existence.

Because of the fast growth of the town in a short time span, Wallace contains a unique, homogenous blend of architecture, which led to first a few buildings, then the downtown district, then the entire core of town listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mining towns tend to have a transient population, and many homes have had numerous owners as a result. This house has had three long-term owners who have owned the house at least 20 years each,

The first recorded deeding of the house is from NP to Carl and Annie Beiswinger on March 14, 1921. Carl and Annie deeded the house to their daughter, Esther M. Beiswinger, on Dec. 16, 1925, and Esther deeded the house back to her father, Carl, on Aug. 19, 1926. By 1927, the lot on which the house is located was divided, and another house had moved on the north half of the lot. Probate proceedings of Jan. 14, 1947, show the north half lot and house belonging to the estate of Annie Laurie Beiswinger and the south half lot and this house belonging to the estate of Carl Beiswinger. The south half lot and this house were sold to Harriett "Haddie" Mullen, a widow, on Dec. 18, 1948. On Nov. 27, 1968 (recorded date), Mullen deeded the house to James E. and Marian E. Davis, who live there today.

#### MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

A 1927 map shows the house had either a slate or tin roof, which has been replaced at least once. Harry Olson said the house was remodeled after it was purchased by Haddie Mullen, a widow who lived downstairs and rented the upstairs. He also said James Davis remodeled the entire house again after he bought it to make it into a single-family dwelling again. Exact date of the alterations are not known. Current evidence shows the ceilings have been lowered on the first floor, and an older stairway has been replaced with a pull-down stairway. A 1927 map and diagram shows a front porch the full length of the facade and no back porch. A 1952 county diagram shows a 5' x 20' front porch and a

7' x 7' back porch. A 1967 county diagram shows a 7' x 24' back porch, which likely is the current back porch. A 1985 county diagram shows the current front porch. At unknown dates an oil furnace was replaced with a gas furnace and new siding was added.

#### EXTERIOR FEATURES

The house is one and one-half story and rectangular. It is wood frame with dormers on the north and south sides.

The house has a concrete foundation, painted gray. The siding is large wood shingles, light green in color, over wood shiplap siding, painted white. A layer of tar paper separates the two sidings. The house has a gable roof with matching dormers on the north and south sides, which have shed roofs. All roofing is corrugated metal. The roof is supported by figure-four brackets, and the eaves are exposed. The gable ends are sided with plywood with vertical grooves. A brick chimney, which hugs a dormer, protrudes from the south-facing roof.

The windows are all wood frame with painted wood trim. The windows are a combination of fixed windows and double-hung sash 1/1. The south shed dormer has two joining windows, and the north side dormer has a double window set and a single window. The foundation contains two windows on the north side, three on the south side and one on the west side that provide daylight to the basement. The windows are wood frame and have three panes side by side.

In the front, five wood steps lead to an open porch with low side walls. The porch has a gable roof with corrugated-metal roofing. The main roof extends over the back porch, which has stairs to the first and second story. From the ground level, nine wood steps with a wood hand rail lead to a landing and the back door. Twenty more wood steps with two landings and one quarter pace lead to an upper landing and back door.

From the ground level in back, four wood steps lead to the basement door.

#### INTERIOR FEATURES

Interior walls have several coverings. First is wallpapered sheetrock, then fiberboard, then wallpaper, then fabric over the wood and 2x4 frame. Floor coverings are linoleum and carpeting over a softwood floor. The kitchen has a newer plywood subflooring. The ceiling on the first floor has been lowered and consists of tiles.

The stairway has been closed, then reopened with a narrower

pull-down apparatus.

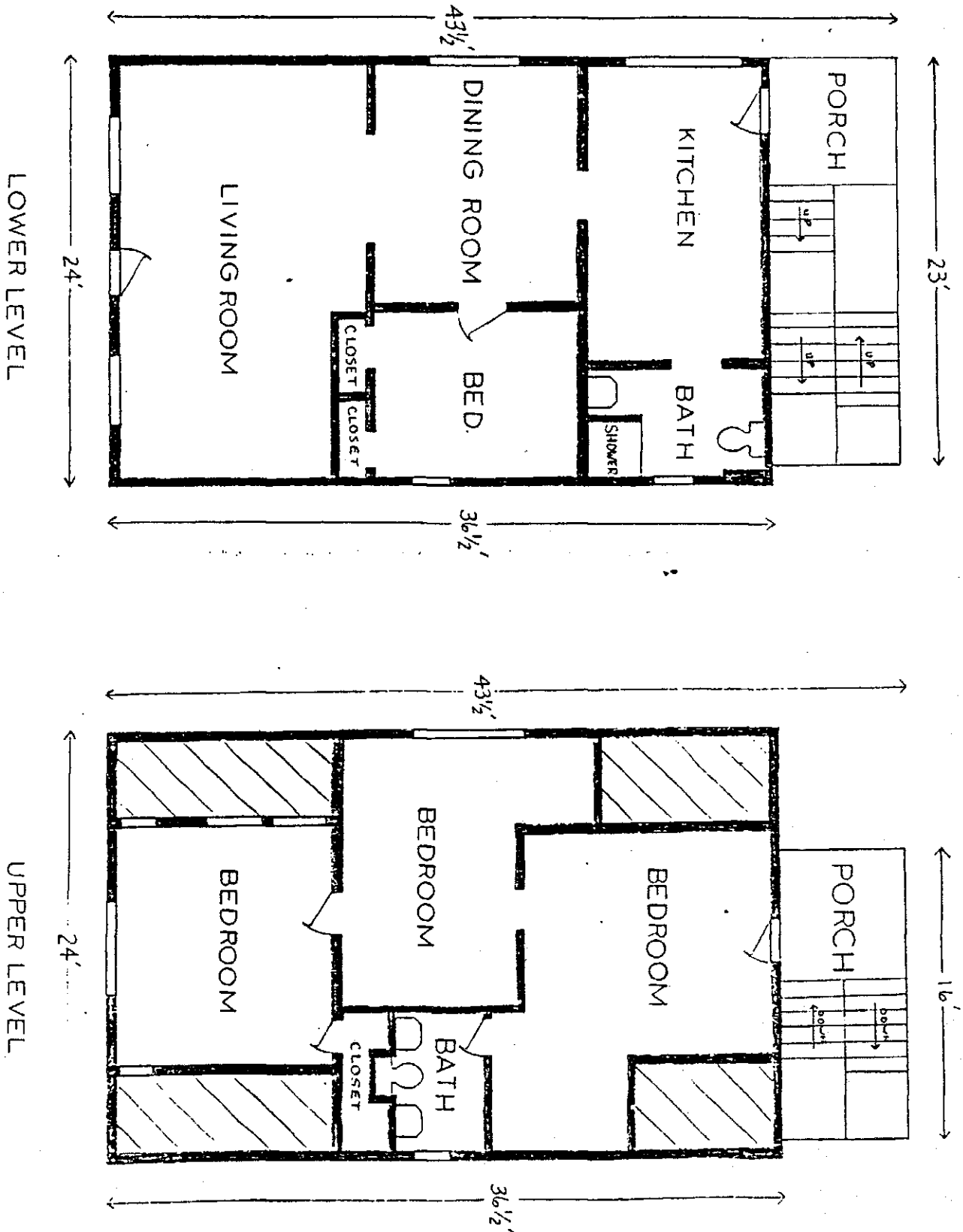
On the second floor, rooms have angled ceilings equal to the slant of the roof. The east end room has built-in drawers on the south wall. Small doors on both sides provide access to the side crawl space which was used for storage.

The basement is full and unfinished except for a storage room that has been partitioned off in the southeast corner. The basement also contains work benches, shelving, a forced-air gas furnace (removed) and the base of the brick chimney.

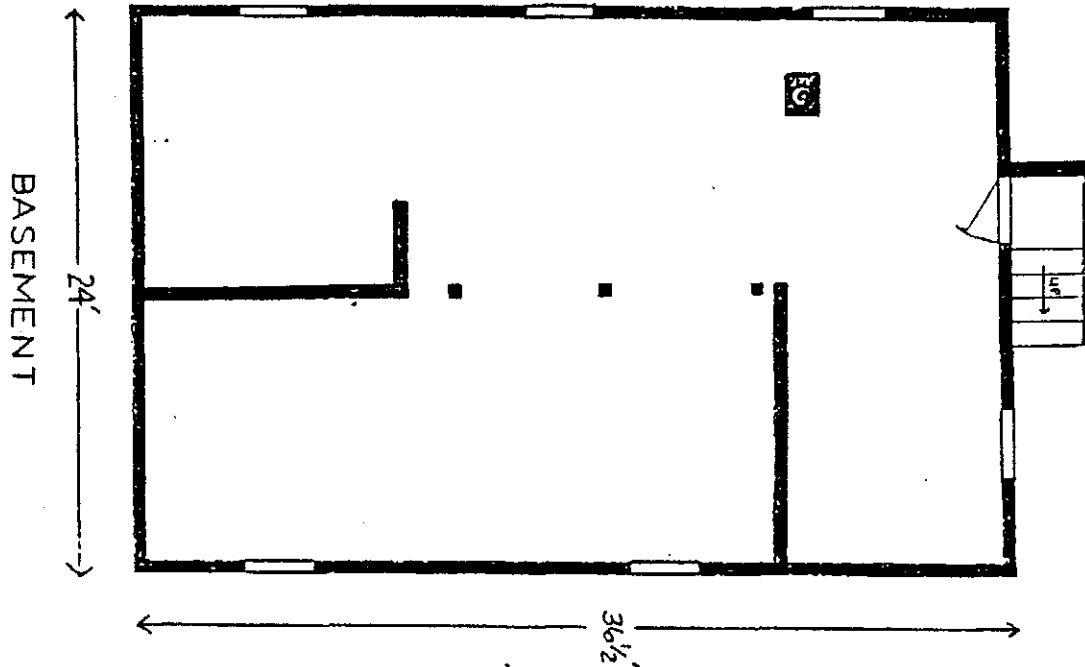


SCALE 1/8"=1'  
K.A. STALEY

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